

mentors, and his long list, performance based. You're being misled when you think that we do not need to improve our schools. Go to your meetings in national level and so on. See how we compare with other countries, another nation and see where we need to improve. Don't just blindly say okay. And we, as a Legislature, are to blame because we think that if we blindly do this then we have automatically improved our education system, and I'm afraid that you're deceived or being deceived in doing it. There's nothing wrong and we should be paying our teachers based on the amount of retraining they do, based on their ability, based on accountability and so on and still, as we are now, just based on, well, I went to school, I took so many years...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: ..and that's not, simply not right. But let's work on the things that we need to do and help our minorities, teachers who are willing to teach in a minority school. Those are the things that we should be addressing. So I have... I will be supporting Senator Withem's amendment. The only part that I would do is I don't feel that we have 20 million dollars available when I do find that we are cutting so many programs or we have to go into the cash reserve, or we can't fix the roof on the Capitol, and I can go right down the list, child support bills or whatever bills. I think that we need to be prudent in what that we do and that we do need to develop some guidelines, address tenure and a number of other things, and try to improve education without just saying, well, we passed out the money, without really any accountability. And I also think that it should be... the lower paid teachers should receive the same amount...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR NELSON: ..of money as the higher paid because they, themselves, are the ones that really need it, that teacher that's down in 20, 21, 22 thousand; not the 40 thousand dollar teacher.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR NELSON: That doesn't make that much difference and the bulk of that's going for income tax. Let's help the teachers that need it and that's the new, young...